

## **MEETING AGENDA**

**Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

**1:30 to 2:30pm**

**City Hall, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor**

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<b>I. Welcoming and Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Deputy Mayor Kopplin</b>
<b>II. Plan Development and Timeline</b>	<b>Charles West</b>
<b>III. Presentation of Proposed Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Sarah Schirmer</b>
<b>IV. Impact of Proposed Plan</b>	<b>Sarah Schirmer</b>
<b>V. Feedback from Subcommittee Members</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>VI. Next Steps</b>	<b>Charles West</b>

## **Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee**

### **Minutes**

**July 1, 2015**

On July 1st, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council convened at 1:34 pm in the 9<sup>th</sup> floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The following persons were present/absent:

#### **Jail Population Management Subcommittee Members**

##### ***Present:***

Andy Kopplin – Subcommittee Chair  
Tyler Gibson (attending on behalf of  
Honorable Susan Guidry)  
Chris Bowman (attending on behalf of Leon  
Cannizzaro)  
Frank Palestina  
Judge Candace Bates-Anderson  
Linda Launey (attending on behalf of Judge  
Bobby Jones)  
Sharonda Williams  
Blake Arcuri (attending on behalf of Sheriff  
Marlin Gusman)  
Superintendent Michael Harrison  
Derwyn Bunton  
Judge Desiree Charbonnet  
Judge Camille Buras  
Judge Harry Cantrell  
Keith Harrison (attending on behalf of  
Arthur Morrell)

##### ***Absent:***

Chief Judge Benedict Willard  
Jeffrey Rouse  
Judge Laurie White

#### **Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Staff**

##### ***Present:***

Charles West  
Sarah Schirmer  
Melody Chang  
DuBois Winford

## **I. Welcoming and Opening Remarks**

Deputy Mayor Kopplin called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm in the Homeland Security Conference Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall.

Deputy Mayor Kopplin welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their continued cooperation. The purpose of the meeting is to review the proposed strategic plan and discuss feedback.

## **II. Plan Development and Timeline**

Charles West reviewed the work that had been put into creating the proposed strategic plan. Mr. West described the downward trend in the jail population since 2012 and noted that the initiatives in the proposed plan are “low-hanging fruit,” i.e. largely involve low-cost, small changes to existing operations and protocol.

## **III. Presentation of Proposed Strategic Plan**

Sarah Schirmer defined a “jail bed day” as the unit of measurement used to measure total usage of beds. The City analyzed bed days for certain issues to understand which populations were driving the average daily population.

Sarah Schirmer discussed proposals for reducing the jail population based on the two primary drivers of jail population: the number of admissions and the average length of stay. In the proposed plan, there are six ways to reduce the number of admissions to jail and ten ways to reduce the length of stay from detainees.

### Comments from Subcommittee members and members from the public:

- There is a typo in the presentation regarding the cost of implementing a court date notification system.
- Video conferencing technology is still being worked out. The new jail will include a courtroom.
- The transportation policy will address transportation patterns among all courts; the data regarding court events reset while defendant is in custody refers to CDC court events and does include defendants who are temporarily out of custody.
- Sarah Schirmer noted that all commissioners would receive licenses for aiSmartBench technology.
- Judges Bates-Anderson advocated for juvenile court to be considered in some of the initiatives and overall for available services to be increased.

## **IV. Impact of Proposed Plan**

- Charles West summarized the impact of the strategic plan. The initiatives in the proposed plan and the removal of DOC-sentenced inmates can reduce the jail population by 30% at a minimum cost savings of almost \$8.5 million per year for staff and the medical contract. That amount does not include additional savings gained from reductions in food costs, utilities for additional buildings, and other detainee costs.

## **V. Feedback from Subcommittee Members**

The following issues were discussed among the Subcommittee members with questions and comments from members of the public:

- Parole issues: Parole issues will largely not be addressed in the strategic plan because revocation decisions are made by the state parole board and therefore lies beyond the scope of what Orleans Parish is able to impact locally.
- Community-based services and pre-booking diversion options: Defendants from Juvenile, Municipal, and Criminal District Court are in need of services. The intent of the strategic plan is not to overwhelm resources that are already strained by current needs; part of the plan submitted to MacArthur may include the expansion of capacity of service providers
- Movement of probationers to DOC custody: Probationers who have new charges would not be well served by transporting them to DOC custody pending outcome of new prosecution because of the strain it would place on the sheriff's office to transport them back and forth for court dates, the delay it may cause to the courts, and because defendants' access to visits from public defenders would diminish
- Impact of strategic plan on court security and OPSO staff: It is important to adequately staff court rooms to maintain order and public safety. Reducing the jail population would reduce the need to hire additional OPSO staff and this could potentially make available resources to increase in-court deputies. Additionally, OPSO has been focused on complying with the consent decree but is aware of Municipal Court's staffing shortages and will be reaching out to collaborate on the issue.
- Relationship between NOPD recruitment and arrests: The city does not anticipate NOPD recruitment to result in more arrests as research has demonstrated that it is policing policy, rather than numbers of officers, that impacts arrest and crime rates.
- Cost savings realized from proposed strategic plan: The city will fix a typo in the projected cost savings. The projected cost savings may not take into account various externalities.
- RORs: The intended outcome is not to create more crime but to prevent it. Research indicates that the strongest indicator of future crime is past incarceration.
- A couple of Subcommittee members noted their appreciation for the proposed plan and the City's efforts to work with stakeholders to understand the system.

## **VI. Next Steps**

Charles West described the next steps for the Subcommittee. After reviewing the proposed strategic plan, the Subcommittee will reconvene to vote to approve the plan. OCJC will provide support and coordination to the agencies. The strategic plan will lay the foundation for the plan that will be submitted to the MacArthur Foundation for the Safety and Justice Challenge in January 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38